

## U. S. TO FORCE PRICES BACK TO NORMAL LEVEL

Federal Board Will Halt Threatened Stagnation of Industry.

ACT AT ONCE, IS PLAN

Idleness Increasing to an Alarming Extent, Red-field Warns.

WILSON'S WORD AWAITED

Capital, Labor and Manufacturers Will Be Asked to Make Concessions.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—A new and far reaching economic policy for the United States designed to bring prices to a normal level and restore commerce and industry immediately has been decided on by Government officials here. The plan is to put into effect, as early as possible, a modification of the policy which is a modification of the time control to meet problems of transition, waits only on action by the President. In announcing this new plan Secretary of Commerce Redfield to-day said that President Wilson had been asked to name a committee which will in practical effect be a "peace" or "reconstruction industries board" to take charge of the situation and break threatened business stagnation or lull in many lines and to restore productivity and the contentment which goes with it in place of the present unrest and uncertainty.

Restoration of Prices.

The first consideration is the restoration of prices. Officials, business leaders, manufacturers and others consulted agree the halt following the war is more largely due to price uncertainty than to any other cause. The building boom has not materialized, manufacturing is not going forward because of uncertainty of raw material prices, and retailers and consumers are buying cautiously and running on scant stocks because of the same uncertainty. It is hoped to bring prices to a point approved by the Government, by labor and industry, and to restore production as sufficiently low and stable to encourage buying.

Secretary Redfield, who is responsible for the new policy or economic program, explained that the first step in taking steps to reduce prices generally at this time, hoping to avoid a threatened business stagnation. Unemployment, he said, was constantly increasing. The new policy will furnish, it is expected, well established markets for all supplies, bringing a demand that is not only for the necessities of life, but for the luxuries of life as well. Labor would be employed and the crisis facing the country would pass.

Cabinet Aids Conference.

The programme was formulated at a conference of Cabinet members and other officials called by Secretary Redfield. All independent Government agencies, explained, and many of them were men who served the War Industries Board, including bankers, industrial leaders and labor men. The committee will be made up of representatives of the various departments. "That it is highly desirable to take steps to reduce the prices of all basic commodities now abnormally high to a level which will encourage production, buying power exists in the country which is only a fair readjustment of prices to become active and effective. That it is necessary to consider the readjustment of prices of materials to have regard for the necessity of maintaining a just and proper wage scale. That there is no prospect of the restoration of pre-war prices immediately and that prices of everything will remain higher than in pre-war days. That the spirit of voluntary cooperation in industry should be availed of and should be a valuable factor in expediting the processes of industrial readjustment. That time is very essential in handling the problem and the situation requires the utmost speed."

Wilson's Approval Asked.

It was determined therefore to seek approval of the President in the appointment of the proposed committee which can coordinate the connecting link between industry, labor and the Government, and it is expected, will be able to coordinate the interests and efforts of all in solving the present problem and remedying the acute industrial situation. The committee will call into conference frequently committees representing all basic commodities. Among the first of these to be called in will be steel, lumber, concrete, cement, brick and other building materials. Simultaneously representatives of the textile industry will be conferred with in determining new prices for their goods. It is expected, according to officials, that all industry will be told flatly to lay its cards on the table. Labor will be asked to do the same. Government officials, coming from an unbiased stand will seek to bring about the understanding which is felt is so sorely needed to stave off an impending crisis.

Call Made on Labor.

Officials believe while labor is still demanding higher wages it will go half way with the prices of the things it must buy scaled down. It is not contemplated now, however, to attempt a radical reduction in wages. If wages are reduced at all, officials say they will adhere strictly to a production cost basis—wages and selling prices being kept simultaneously. In many sections it was pointed out, big industries have announced their intention of cutting their prices, even though the loss is heavy. They believe, Secretary Redfield said, only through a loss at this time can they clear the way for the business expansion which they must have to establish capacity operation of their various plants.

Events are left to take their natural course, Secretary Redfield said, the settlement of post war prices would probably be a protracted and difficult matter. This would be true, since prices of one commodity affect other commodities, and one producer would be inclined to wait for the price of another commodity to take the first step. Such a course he argued, would be expensive and would result in great losses to labor and capital.

Salient Points in Problem.

Salient points in the problem which confronts the nation Secretary Redfield outlined as follows: The nation is not resuming production in full volume because of lack of buyers; consumers are not buying except for immediate needs or emergency requirements because of high and unstable prices. The effect of the war on

## Now the Indian May Lose His Peyote Bean

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Hearings on a section of the House on the use of the intoxicating Peyote bean by Indians opened to-day before a Senate Indian sub-committee with representatives of the Osage and other tribes present.

The bean is used by many tribes in their religious observances and efforts to prohibit its use failed last year.

The approach of national prohibition is figuring in the present hearing.

the law of supply and demand uprooted, as a result, any definite basis for computation of prices is indicated beyond the possibility of maintenance upon the scale of peace time business; prices have advanced disproportionately, some showing increases as high as 250 per cent., while others are only 50 per cent. higher than the pre-war level; these prices were fixed in many instances to encourage production during the war and the war and there unless definite and concerted action is taken by the Government and industry a long period of time will elapse before the law of supply and demand becomes operative again.

The whole problem as viewed by officials is to establish a scale of prices which will justify buying. It is felt that labor will demand higher wages than before the European war began and that no true adjustment of the wage situation should be attempted directly as measured by the purchasing power there was a well emphasized opinion that labor will do what is asked of it when the costs of living are reduced.

## RELATIVES MAY SUE SELLERS OF LIQUOR

Search Clause of Glass Bill Less Drastic, However, Than Expected.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Secretary of the Treasury Glass to-day submitted to Congress the Department's proposals as to legislation effectuating the war prohibition act, which goes in operation July 1 next.

While the proposals as to means of preventing transportation and sale of intoxicating liquors are drastic, and while the measure also contains a provision for damage suits against vendors of alcoholic liquors by relatives and friends of the vendee, the seizure and search provisions are much less drastic than had been expected and provide the usual procedure on warrant sworn out on testimony submitted under oath.

The more drastic provisions of the bill submitted by Secretary Glass follow:

"That all houses, buildings, boats, structures or places of any kind where any distilled spirits, beer, wine or intoxicating beverages are sold, stored, received, kept for sale, or by means of any device whatsoever sold for beverage purposes in violation of the war prohibition act shall be subject to search, seizure and forfeiture of the same, and the ground in which such unlawful manufacture or sale, receipt, or keeping for sale, is carried on or conducted, or exists, and the furniture, fixtures, vessels and contents kept or used in violation of the act are also declared nuisances and shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture."

"Any automobile or other vehicle employed or used in the conveyance or transportation of any such liquor with intent to use or sell the same in violation of said act shall be seized and delivered to the proper officers and shall be proceeded against by libel in the proper court and shall be forfeited."

"That if any such automobile or other vehicle or other article or movable is condemned the same shall be disposed of by sale, or destruction or otherwise as ordered. The proceedings of such libel cases shall conform as near as may be to the proceedings in admiralty, and either party may demand a trial by jury."

"Every wife, child, parent, guardian, employer or other person who shall be injured in person or property or means of support by any intoxicated person or in consequence of intoxication, habitual or otherwise of any person, shall have a right of action in his or her own name against any person who shall be selling to another any liquor contrary to the provisions of act, causing the intoxication of such person, for all damages actually sustained as well as for exemplary damages; and a married woman shall have the right to bring suit, prosecute and control the same as if unmarried, and all damages recovered by a minor under this section shall be paid either to such minor or to his parent, guardian or next friend as the court shall direct, and all damages under this section shall be paid by civil action in any court having jurisdiction."

## CITY BIDS FOR SERVICE MEN.

Women Also to Get Credits on Eligible List.

Not only soldiers, sailors and marines, but also women who served the Government in the war are to receive recognition in competition for places in the municipal civil service, according to an amendment to the regulations adopted at a meeting of the commission yesterday. If later the Federal Government should recognize the justice of greater credit being given for foreign service, the rules will be amended accordingly. Those who were on the eligible list, but went to war preserve their old status on a special list.

The additional ratings are given in consideration of the length of time the applicant has served the Government. The highest number of points that can be credited, however, is two, which does not give civilian applicants too high handicaps to overcome.

## SEEK PRISONERS' RELEASE.

Austrian Women on Way to Paris to See Wilson.

BERN, Feb. 7.—The representatives of the provisional Government of Vorarlberg (an Austrian province of 1,000 square miles in western Tyrol) passed through Bern Thursday on their way to Paris to present to President Wilson a petition from the women of Vorarlberg asking for the release of Vorarlberg prisoners of war captured while serving in the Austrian army. The delegation is headed by Burgomaster Amann of Hohentengen.

## 15 NEW YORK STATE G. O. P. BACK GILLET

Four Congressmen for Mann, Others Silent in Speaker-ship Fight.

SENATE RULES REMADE

Allotment of Committee Membership Adjusted by Republicans.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Fifteen members of the New York Republican delegation in the Sixty-sixth Congress went on record to-day as favoring the election of Representative Frederick H. Gillett (Mass.) as the next Speaker; four members announced in favor of Minority Leader Mann (Ill.) and five Representatives, among them three absentees, were not committed.

The vote was taken at a secret session of the delegation, including the members elect. The Representatives who announced for Mr. Mann were Dunn, Parker, Magee and Platt. The two present members who refused to commit themselves were Hanzell and Rusten. Representatives Ward, Reed and McCrete were not present to vote. The votes of the three absentees are counted generally as against Mr. Mann, though their attitude toward Mr. Gillett is not generally known.

Committee Row Averted.

With the selection of Representative Dunn as the New York member of the Committee on the threatened storm over the filling of Representative Fairchild's place on the Ways and Means Committee was averted for the present. No attempt was made to instruct Representative Dunn for either Representative Mott or Gould, both of whom are contending for Ways and Means membership.

As Mr. Dunn was originally proposed by the Gould forces for the Committee on Commerce, his selection without instruction was considered a vote for Gould, although in a vote on New York's choice for House doorman the forces of Senator Calder, led by Representative Mott, won on a 10 to 11 vote and endorsed A. S. Tallman over John Hollingsworth.

Action Not Pressed.

The selection of Representative Mott as chairman of the committee and Representative Crowther as secretary was not without significance. Judging from the attitude of Representative Mott, the committee's deliberations developed so decided a division over the leadership that it was not deemed wise to press affairs to an issue at the present time.

The special committee of the Senate Republican conference has completed its work of reframing the rules governing the Senate of committee memberships in the Senate with a view to correcting abuses and unfair conditions which have grown up under application of the rule of seniority in assignments. To-morrow they will report to the conference.

Making of Committee.

The committee is composed of Senators Lenroot (Wis.), chairman, and Cummins (Iowa), Smoot (Utah), Norris (Nebr.), Harding (Ohio), Knox (Pa.) and Hale (Me.).

After more than a fortnight's deliberation the committee has determined to report favorably the Norris resolution, modified by Senator Cummins, by which it is provided that no member of the committee shall hold a seat in more than two of the major committees of the Senate. There are ten of these committees.

In the majority of cases, it is believed, the reduction of the number of seats in the committee will be sufficient to maintain the present ratio of majority to minority in committee as existing in the present Senate, where the Democrats have a majority.

In the membership of majority and minority to near a parity the Democrats also may lose one committee seat.

The recommendations to the conference provide that in the selection of committee managers on legislative measures at which time there shall not be appointed the same Senator to represent two committees.

## BAKER IGNORES PLEA FOR ARMY AMNESTY

Crowder to Equalize Sentences of Offenders

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Secretary Baker indicated to-day he was not prepared at this time to discuss the question of general amnesty for military offenders asked by the "strikers" at the Leavenworth disciplinary barracks in a letter presented to the Secretary to-day by Col. Rice, commandant of the barracks. The prisoners also asked for an equalization of war time sentences for military offenses.

The Secretary has prepared a letter to Col. Rice embodying his reply to the "strikers." It states that the problem of equalizing sentences is being worked out as rapidly as possible by Major-General Crowder, Judge Advocate-General, and his aids, but makes no reference to the plea for general amnesty.

Col. Rice has been in Washington attending the conference of commandants of disciplinary barracks, which concluded its work to-day and placed before Secretary Baker recommendations regarding the administration of army prisons. The object sought in these recommendations, Mr. Baker said, is to restore military offenders to duty in the army that they may be honorably discharged.

To this end the commandants desire an increased amount of psychological aid in considering the individual needs of prisoners with a view to betterment, and also an extension of vocational education at the prisons in such a way that men in custody can be assigned to work for which they are temperamentally adapted.

The whole aim of the War Department, Mr. Baker said, is to educate prisoners to be good citizens and to employ the time they are in custody in training them to support themselves in civil life.

## Naval War College to Open July 1.

Newport, R. I., Feb. 7.—Naval officials announced here to-night that the Naval War College would open its next course on July 1 under the presidency of Admiral Sims. It is expected a large part of the Atlantic fleet will visit Newport at that time.

## PACKERS TRIED TO STAVE OFF INQUIRY

Counsel for Swifts Admits Attempt at Influencing Members of Congress.

HENEY READS LETTERS

Prof. Durand Suggested Pre-arranged Questions Be Furnished to Investigators.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Henry Needer, counsel for Swift & Co., testified before the Senate Agricultural Committee to-day on cross-examination by Francis J. Heney that friends of the packers throughout the country were solicited to bring influence to bear on members of Congress to defeat the resolution providing for an investigation of the meat packing industry. Representatives were sent also to Washington to observe developments in the Senate Judiciary sub-committee, which was considering the proposal in 1916, he said.

Reads Packers' Memoranda.

Mr. Heney read memoranda from the packers' files giving reports of conference members from the five big packers to take action against the resolution. With Prof. E. D. Durand of the University of Minnesota, who was asked to give assistance.

Mr. Heney and Mr. Needer, who later became accountants for the Food Administration, suggested that a prearranged series of questions be furnished friendly members of Congress to ask witnesses.

The packers desired, Mr. Needer said, to have the bureau of markets of the Department of Agriculture issue reports to the Senate Judiciary sub-committee, which was suggested by Mr. Durand, according to letters read by Mr. Heney.

Guard Bribe, Heney Charges.

Frequent verbal encounters between Mr. Heney and Mr. Needer during the testimony dealing with efforts of the Federal Trade Commission's investigation to search the attorney's private files for papers, Mr. Heney charged that a guard he had placed in Mr. Needer's office was bribed with gifts of whiskey and cigars. Mr. Needer denied this.

Spencer Smith, head of a New York importing and commission firm, was heard to-day by the House Interstate Commerce Committee, which also is considering legislation to regulate the meat industry.

Mr. Smith said that if transportation was available to every one on equal terms the meat industry would be stripped of whatever power they might possess and that they "could not then possibly be a menace to the industry or to the country at large."

## FLIERS TO BE RATED AND PAY INCREASED

Will Name Officers Who Distinguish Themselves.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—American fliers will be rated according to their achievements and abilities, and the ratings will carry an increase in pay. The War Department plan is to rate these officers as aviators, and the ratings will carry an increase in pay.

A board of officers to pass on qualifications of fliers will be set up, and distinguished themselves in action has been appointed by Major-General Kenly, director of military aeronautics. This board will review the records of fliers and make recommendations as to their ratings.

## ASKS \$60,000,000 FOR STORAGE.

Gen. Goethals Says Surplus War Supplies Are Worth Billions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Major-General Goethals, chief of the purchase, storage and traffic division of the War Department, asked the House Military Affairs Committee to-day for an appropriation of \$60,000,000 to be used in storing the enormous surplus of surplus war supplies. He said \$20,000,000 would be needed for rental and \$40,000,000 for maintenance.

Thousands of tons of supplies are being brought back from France and the ports of debarkation are becoming congested. Gen. Goethals estimated the value of the unstored supplies at billions of dollars.

## MEXICAN RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Without debate the Senate adopted to-day the resolution of Senator King (Utah), Democrat, which provided the approval of the Foreign Relations Committee and in which acting Secretary Polk acquiesced, calling upon the State Department for information regarding steps taken to settle American claims growing out of the Mexican border depositions.

It was referred to the Military Committee.

The purpose is to bring out exchanges between Secretary Baker and Gen. March and Gen. Crowder which are due to a report that Gen. Crowder had been reprimanded.

## MINES DESTROY TWO VESSELS.

Loss of Life on Danish Steamship Totals 17.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—The British mine-sweeping ship "Eurydice" struck a mine this morning near the mouth of the River Thames and sank. Twenty-eight survivors have been landed.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 7.—Only one of eighteen members of the crew of the Danish steamship "Carnegie" was saved when the ship was sunk by a mine on Sunday in the North Sea. The accident occurred near the Lister Lighthouse.

Ticket Case Goes Over.

The hearing on the question of the constitutionality of the ordinance regulating ticket speculators was adjourned until Friday by Justice Pitlake of the Supreme Court, sitting in private chambers yesterday. The adjournment was due to the District Attorney's office being unprepared to proceed.

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## BALFOUR THANKS HARVARD DOCTORS

Expresses Britain's Gratitude for Two Years Work.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 7.—President A. Lawrence Lowell of Harvard University made public to-day a letter from Foreign Secretary Balfour expressing the appreciation of the British Government for the work accomplished by the Harvard surgical unit while it was overseas. The unit treated one-tenth of all the British wounded in France. The letter says in part:

"Now that the Harvard unit has fulfilled its noble mission to the British troops in France and has earned the tribute of their undying gratitude I desire to offer to that splendid organization some expression, however inadequate, of my deep appreciation of the great work it has performed."

"May I therefore count on your good offices to let every member of the unit know how grateful his Majesty's Government feels for the generous offer made and carried out in December, 1916, through the work of General Hospital 22, the largest hospital unit serving with the British army, has held a record for skillful and untiring treatment of our wounded."

"The memory of so much service and self-sacrifice can never pass from us. It will be cherished in perpetuity by the relatives and friends of those whom the Harvard unit has tended with such admirable devotion."

## EISNER BARES PART OF MILITARIST PLOT

Reveals Pre-War Conversation of King Ludwig and Envoy to Paris.

By the Associated Press.

BERN, Feb. 7.—There is still a vast amount of material to be examined in German quarters regarding responsibility for the war, said Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian Premier, in discussing this subject with the correspondent to-day.

"Entire archives are as yet unexamined," Herr Eisner said, "but already much material has been found in the secret archives of the Munich diplomatic correspondence proving Germany's guilt in starting the war. For instance, there is a record of a conversation between King Ludwig of Bavaria and Count von Schoen, the former German Ambassador at Paris, which was found among Count von Hertling's papers, which shows that Germany desired the war."

The conversation took place in August, 1914, and, according to the ambassador, that this war must have a different result from that of the war of 1870 and that Belgium must be annexed by Germany.

"To this," continued Herr Eisner, "the King added: 'Germany must also acquire the mouth of the Rhine, even at the expense of the violation of Dutch territory.' Furthermore, Bavaria must be given a portion of Alsace-Lorraine; in the latter case Bavaria would renounce her territories in Baden and Hesse."

Emperor William was undoubtedly directly to blame for precipitating the war, Herr Eisner said, and Germany was responsible to a greater extent for bringing it about. They must all be tried, but by a German tribunal, he insisted. He is in favor of all soldiers' property being restored and the robbers severely punished.

Concerning the League of Nations the Premier declared:

"It is to be hoped the Bern conference will renew the international. This is the first time that delegates of the hostile countries have met since the war. It is to be hoped the Bern conference will be without effect in Paris."

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## DUSSELDORF ON STRIKE.

Whole Town Shut Down by Executive Council.

By the Associated Press.

BERLIN, Feb. 7.—The whole city of Dusseldorf has "walked out" today. Officials, clerks and other employees in the service of railways, posts, telegraph, telephone and service lines; bankers, lawyers, physicians, school teachers and other people engaged in professions have quit work.

The employees on all public service lines are striking, in keeping with the threat to the executive council of the Communist Government to call a general strike of all bourgeois classes if their demands were not granted.

Theatres and restaurants are forced to close, as they are without service. Big industrial plants have shut down, as office forces everywhere have joined in the walkout. This strike is the first of its kind to be applied on a big scale as a retaliation against Spartan terrorism.

It was announced yesterday that some attention be given this question by the Rules Committee.

## At Saks' Today

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Big, Roomy, Comfort-giving Coats, lined with furs of the best quality only. The skillful manner in which they are tailored gives to them a perfection of line seldom achieved in fur-lined coats.

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Marmot-Lined Oxford Overcoats. Of splendid quality, with large shawl collar of Persian Lamb or Hudson Seal. Reduced from \$125.00 95.50

Swagger Fur-Lined Overcoats. In double-breasted model, form fitting and cut knee length. Shell is of soft fleecy Heather Mixture, lined with Marmot Fur. Large shawl collar may be had in Otter or Hudson Seal. Reduced from \$175.00 125.00

Federal Revenue Act

At our Uptown and Downtown offices reprints can be obtained of the new FEDERAL REVENUE ACT as agreed to by the Conference Committee of Congress. As soon as the Act is finally passed we will have for distribution our complete pamphlet containing summaries and index in addition to the text of the law.

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180 Dead or Missing and 229 Wounded or Injured Out of 4,925 Men.

REPORT IS UP TO FEB. 1

American Position on River Vaga Are Under Heavy Bolshevik Fire.

By the Associated Press.

ARCHANGEL, Feb. 6 (delayed).—The American positions on the River Vaga, at which an infantry attack by the Bolsheviks on Tuesday was repulsed, were under heavy shell fire from the Bolshevik artillery to-day. The other sections on the northern front were quiet.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Total casualties in the American forces in the Archangel region of Russia up to and including January 31 were 180 killed, died of wounds, sickness or from other cause or missing in action and 229 wounded or injured, making a total casualty list of 409 out of a force that numbered 4,925. This information was contained in a cablegram from Archangel dated February 4 and made public to-day.

The casualties were listed as follows: Killed in action, 3 officers and 38 men; died of disease, 2 officers and 64 men; died of wounds, 1 officer and 12 men; accidentally killed, 3 men; drowned, 1 officer, 2 men; missing, 1 officer, 34 men; wounded in action, all ranks, 198; accidentally wounded, 25; wounded, other causes, 6.

Of these casualties 63 occurred between January 19 and January 31, the period during which the Bolshevik forces were attacking the allied lines in such force as to compel a considerable retirement. The losses during this time on the Vaga front were: Killed in action, 11 men; died of wounds, 1 officer and 3 men; missing in action, 18 men; wounded, 2 officers and 28 men. Total, 63.

On January 31 the American force in the Archangel sector was composed of 161 officers and 4,764 other ranks. Another effort to-day by Senator Johnson (Cal.) to secure Senate passage of his resolution favoring immediate withdrawal of American troops from Russia ended in failure.